

Christ Church Duns

Moving into Phase 3 of Scottish Government lockdown easing

Dear All,

This is to bring you up to date on the latest proposals for reopening our churches, as since we wrote to you on 30 July there have been some changes in plans.

We are now in Phase 3 of the Scottish Government lockdown easing. BECG now has permission from Bishop John to begin to reopen our churches. There has been much to consider, and broadband connections need to be put in place at Christ Church. Thus, we now are aiming to provide a live ZOOM service from Christ Church Duns a little later than hoped, on 23 August.

Our pattern of Sunday services will initially be as follows:

From Sunday 9 August:

4:00pm – St Ebba's, Eyemouth – A Service of Communion (c.30 minutes). Contact Reverend Chris Jones if you would like to attend as space is limited.

Sunday 16 August 10.45 am ZOOM service for BECG at 10.45 am, as before.

From Sunday 23 August

10:45am – Live from Christ Church, Duns plus available in the comfort of your own homes via ZOOM: A Service of Communion. The ZOOM service will continue to be shared with St Ebba's and St Mary and All Souls, as before.

Questions that you might have about gradually opening Christ Church Duns

Q. What precautions will be taken?

A. We are planning to lay out Christ Church carefully so that social distancing is observed; the flow of the congregation will be carefully organised; There will be hand sanitiser and thorough cleaning each week before Sunday services. There will be a steward to help when you arrive and leave. There will be no kitchen or toilet facilities except in emergencies. Please do not hug or shake hands with anyone outside your household.

Q. Will we have communion/eucharistic services in church when we re-open? A. Only consecrated bread (but not wine).

Q. Why can't we sing in church?

A. Due to an increased risk of infection.

Q. Do I have to come to church in person to join a service or will there continue to be ZOOM services?

A. Both options will be available. Details will also be posted each week on our website (<http://www.christchurchduns.org/index.asp?pageid=683800>) or contact Reverend Chris Jones for joining instructions.

Q. *Will the usual congregation fit into our church?*

A. Christ Church will have a physical distancing cap of 22 members. Vestry do not anticipate that this will be a problem as lockdown slowly eases, as we anticipate many members of the congregation will continue to join services via ZOOM during this period.

Q. *Should I come to church?*

A. Please be responsible. If you have any symptoms do not come to church but immediately self-isolate and follow government guidance about what to do next.

Q. *Will BECG be enabling contact tracing?*

A. Yes. You will be asked to 'sign in' if you attend a service.

Q. *Can people who are 'vulnerable' (including those who are over 70 or have been shielding) come to church or carry out duties associated with a return to worship in church in Phase 3?*

A. Yes. In line with Scottish Government guidance, people in these groups are in general now able to follow the same advice as the wider public. It is up to you to judge what activities you are confident to undertake but we recommend that you err on the side of caution. If you have any doubts, I would encourage you to join the service via Zoom.

Q. *Should I wear a face covering?*

A. Yes. Please bring, and wear, a face covering during the service. This is now mandatory, unless you are in an exempt group. You will simply lift it just to receive the bread at communion.

Q. *Will we be using hymn books, Bibles and paper liturgies?*

A. No. Church prayer books, hymn books and Bibles will not be available in church. You will be given a Blue service book which you will then be asked to take home and bring with you next time. The readings will be displayed on a screen in church. The ZOOM arrangements will continue unchanged.

Q. *Will there be hassocks and soft cushions available?*

A. No. All soft furnishings have been removed until lockdown eases.

Q. *Will there be a plate collection at church services?*

A. Yes. But this will be placed at the back of the church only. An opportunity to donate!

Q. *Can I give my neighbour (who is not in my household) a lift to church?*

A. No. This is not permitted according to the College of Bishops.

Q. *Can we serve refreshments in church after the service?*

A. No.

These guidelines inevitably, in the case of Covid-19, err on the side of caution.

Official regulations are evolving frequently. As we find we are able to review this pattern of services we will let you know in advance of the changes we will be making.

Revd Chris Jones: 0136 884326; rector_bt@hotmail.com

Website: www.christchurchduns.org